

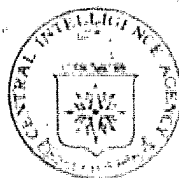
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April 1964

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

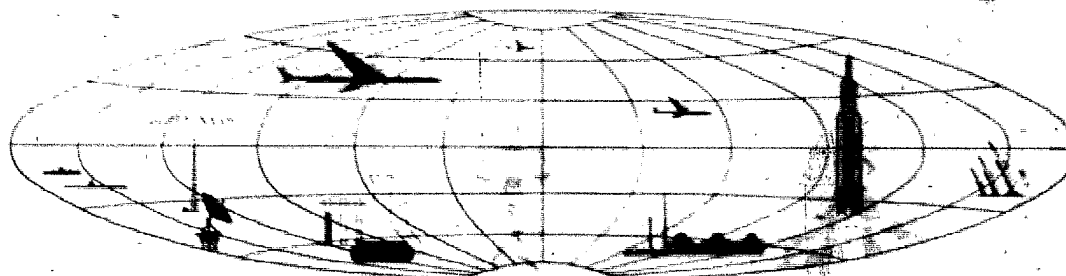
REEXAMINATION  
OF UNIDENTIFIED GRID PATTERN  
NEAR KZYL-ORDA, USSR

CIA



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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



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## REEXAMINATION OF UNIDENTIFIED GRID PATTERN NEAR KZYL-ORDA, USSR

### SUMMARY

The identity and purpose of the grid pattern near Kzyl-Orda remains undetermined. Photography of June 1963, while of excellent quality, still does not permit a determination of the pattern's function. It appears that the grid pattern and its supporting trail patterns have

changed significantly since the first photographic coverage of the area in 1957. The grid scars now appear to have been regraded and in some cases extended. Several areas which may be housing areas, instrumentation points, or water-holes were observed.

### INTRODUCTION

Photography of 1957 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>1</sub> provided the first view of the grid pattern, situated approximately 60 nautical miles (nm) northeast of Kzyl-Orda, USSR (Figure 1). The pattern at that time consisted of two base legs approximately 30 nm

in length and 15 transverse scars ranging from 12 to 15 nm in length between the base legs. The two base legs had [redacted] degrees; the 15 transverse scars had an azimuth [redacted] degrees and were spaced at approx-

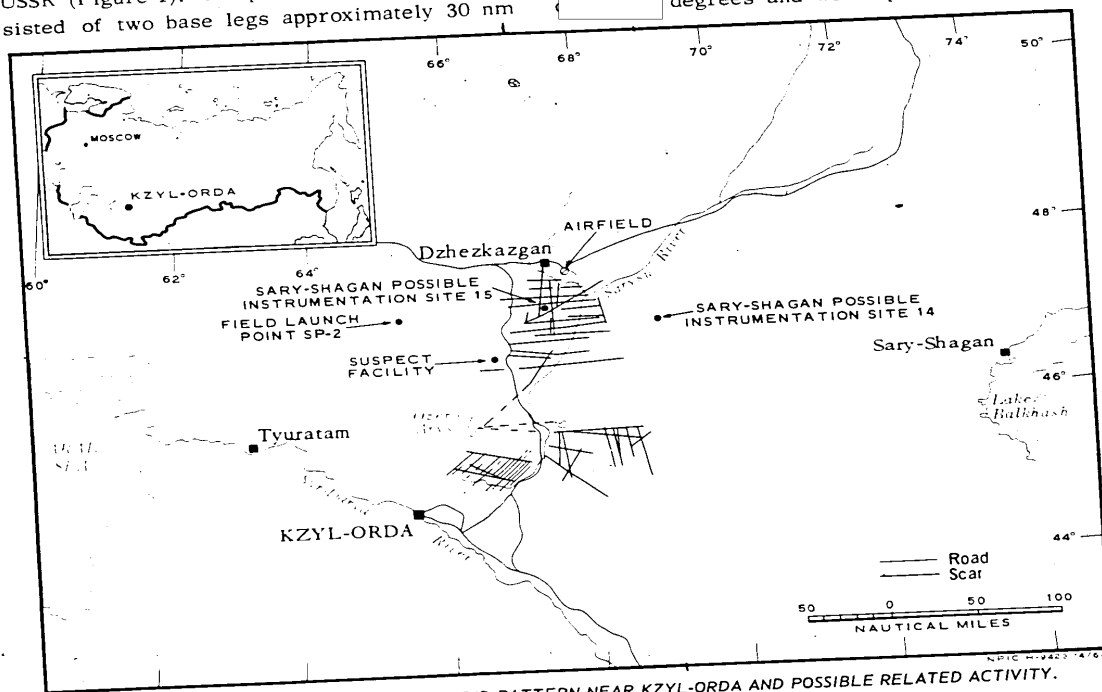


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF UNIDENTIFIED GRID PATTERN NEAR KZYL-ORDA AND POSSIBLE RELATED ACTIVITY.

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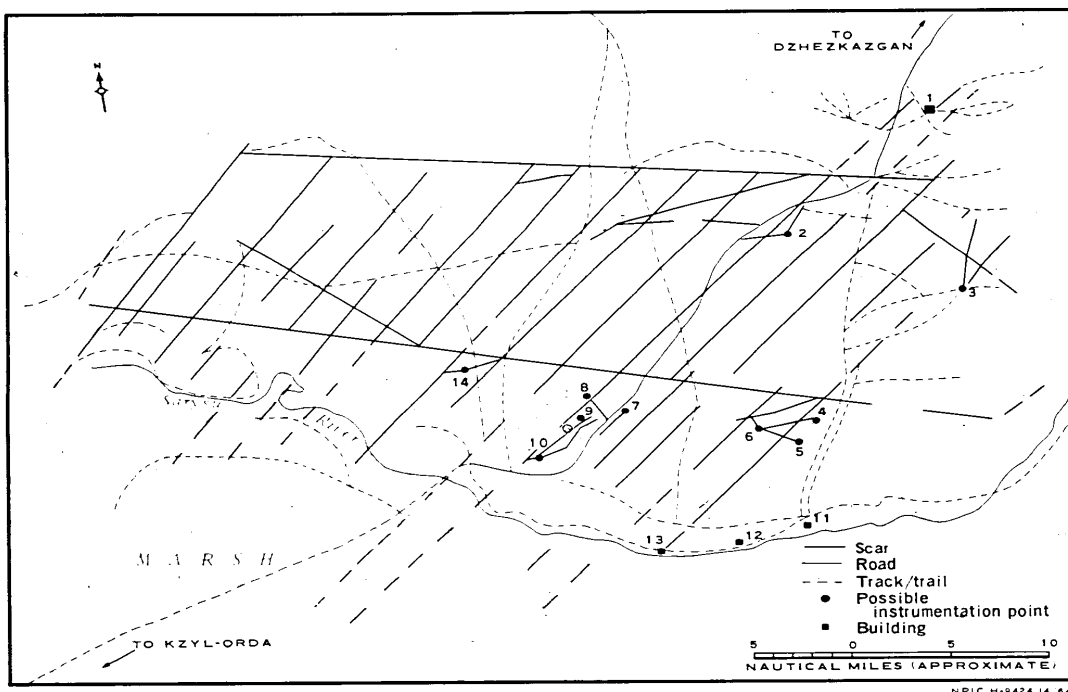


FIGURE 2. UNIDENTIFIED GRID PATTERN NEAR KZYL-ORDA, USSR.

imately 1.9 nm intervals. Most of the transverse scars were traced southward across the Sarysu River into the marsh area which forms the southern boundary of the grid. Spaced along nine of the transverse legs at a variable distance averaging 2 nm were scars forming a "plus sign" configuration. No housing or signs of current

activity were visible in 1957.

Minor changes in the grid were visible on 1962 photography. Six of the transverse lines and all of the "plus signs" were not observed. However, one new transverse line had been added on the eastern side. 2/

#### GRID PATTERN AS OF JUNE 1963

Photography of June 1963 provides the best imagery of the grid since the 1957 photography (Figure 2). The grid pattern retained its same general configuration although it showed a significant degree of renovation. Several of the

scars appeared to have been graded and extended. A few randomly oriented scars (probably present on 1962 photography, but not discernible) and several objects, which may be campsites or buildings, were observed for the

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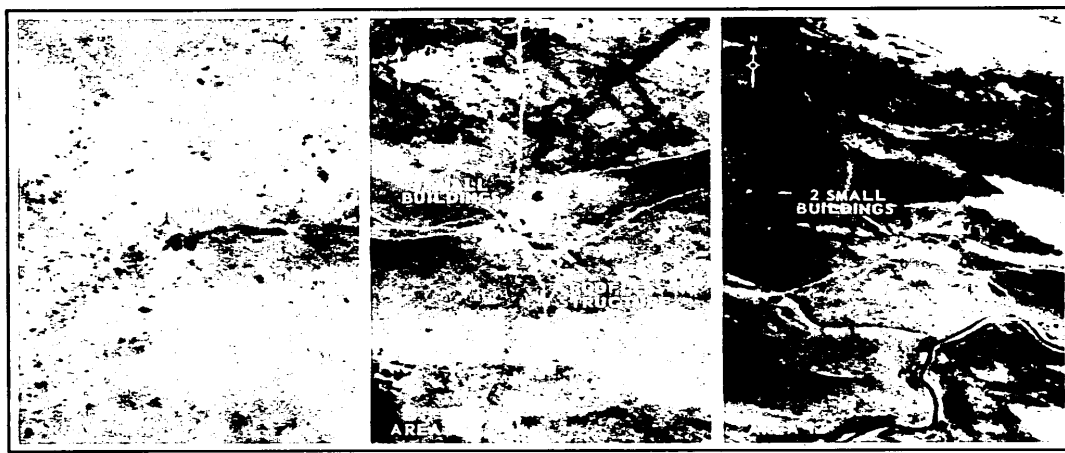


FIGURE 3. AREAS 1, 11, AND 12 IN THE VICINITY OF THE GRID PATTERN NEAR KZYL-ORDA, USSR, JUNE 1963.

first time. Roads and trails appeared to have been subjected to heavier travel since the 1962 photography.

**Buildings and Instrumentation Points.** At various locations (numbered 1-14 in Figure 2), numerous vehicle tracks have been observed. Considerable track activity and cable scars are located at areas 2-10 and 14; the cable scars indicate that these locations have been or are being used for some type of instrumentation, but vegetation at some of these areas indicates that they may be only waterholes serving herdsmen and travelers. Numerous vehicle tracks are also associated with small buildings located at areas 1, 11, 12, and 13; no cable scars are visible at or near these locations. The small buildings have an estimated floorspace of 250 square feet and could be used by technicians or simply as housing for migrant herdsmen. Photographs of areas 1,

11, and 12 and the buildings located in them are shown in Figure 3.

**Roads.** The grid is traversed by a network of low-grade roads and trails (Figure 2). The road most traveled is located along the twelfth transverse scar (counting from left to right), and heads toward the city of Dzhezkazgan, approximately 140 nm away. This main artery is an unimproved earth road consisting of as many as five separate sets of wheel ruts. This road connects with the next most traveled route located near the northern end of scar number 13. This route trends off the grid pattern on the southeast corner where it connects with an unimproved road which skirts the marsh forming the southern border of the grid. This marsh road continues as a trail toward the Kzyl-Orda area, approximately 50 nm to the southwest.

#### POSSIBLE RELATED ACTIVITY IN THE REGION

In the general region of the grid pattern are several areas of possible related activity. The

earth-scarring activity in this region appears to emanate from the city of Dzhezkazgan

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(47-53N 67-27E) approximately 140 nm NNE of the grid pattern. Ground scars traced southward pass near Sary-Shagan Possible Instrumentation Site 15, proceed through a large unidentified grid pattern approximately 25 nm south of the city, and then continue in a generally southwesterly direction toward Ozero (Lake) Arys. At a point 5 nm east of the lake the ground scars branch into two or more segments. Two scars turn sharply toward an area 85 nm east of the lake; the area contains a main base line trending eastward and five transverse lines of comparable length extending southward from the base line.

This area also contains considerable numbers of apparently randomly oriented scars.

From Ozero Arys a third scar appears to continue southward into the grid pattern described in this report (Figure 2), although cloud cover in this area prevents actual verification of this.

Other sites of possible related activity are the previously mentioned Sary-Shagan Possible Instrumentation Sites 14 and 15, Field Launch Point SP-2 (47-21N 65-20E), and a suspect facility associated with instrumentation (approximate coordinates 46-39N 66-40E).

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## MAPS AND CHARTS

ACIC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0245-16AL, 2d ed, Jun 61, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0246-20AL, 1st ed, Aug 60, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

ACIC. Operational Navigation Chart, Sheet ONC-F-5, 1st classified ed, Jul 61, scale 1:1,000,000 (CONFIDENTIAL)

ACIC. Operational Navigation Chart, Sheet ONC-F-6, 1st classified ed, Aug 61, scale 1:1,000,000 (CONFIDENTIAL)

## DOCUMENTS

1. CIA. HTA JM-19/58, *Unidentified Ground Scars Near Kzyl-Orda, USSR*, Dec 58 (TOP SECRET CHESS)

2. CIA. NPIC/R-60/63, *Unidentified Grid Pattern Near Kzyl-Orda, USSR*, Apr 63 (TOP SECRET DINAR CHESS RUFF)

## REQUIREMENT

CIA. C-S14-81,090

## NPIC PROJECT

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